at least one metal layer comprising a plurality of sections, each section comprising at least one thousand conductors situated in a contiguous area to interconnect points on the integrated circuit, wherein a preferred direction, within a section, defines a direction, relative to the boundaries of the integrated circuit, for at least fifty percent of conductors in the section;

a' a first section comprising a first preferred direction for the conductors deposed in the first section; and

a second section comprising a preferred diagonal wiring direction for the conductors deposed in the second section, such that the diagonal wiring preferred direction is a direction different from the first preferred direction, said second section further comprising at least one conductor deposed in a Manhattan direction coupled to a conductor deposed in said preferred diagonal wiring direction.

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a1 a|12|02 a2 3. ~~2.~~ (Once Amended) The integrated circuit as set forth in claim 2, wherein the first preferred diagonal direction comprises a direction perpendicular to said preferred diagonal wiring direction in said second section.

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a3 7. (Once Amended) The integrated circuit as set forth in claim 6, wherein:

the first diagonal direction comprises an octalinear direction; and

the second diagonal direction comprises an octalinear direction complementary to the first diagonal direction.

8. (Once Amended) The integrated circuit as set forth in claim 6, wherein:

the first diagonal direction comprises a hexalinear direction; and

the second diagonal direction comprises a hexalinear direction complementary to the first diagonal direction.

A3

9. (Once Amended) The integrated circuit as set forth in claim 6, wherein:

the first diagonal direction comprises an octalinear direction; and

the second diagonal direction comprises a hexalinear direction.

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14. (Once Amended) The integrated circuit as set forth in claim 13, wherein:

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the preferred direction comprises a diagonal direction; and

the direction different than the preferred direction comprises a Manhattan direction.

15. (Once Amended) The integrated circuit as set forth in claim 13, wherein:

the preferred direction comprises a Manhattan direction; and

the direction different than the preferred direction comprises a diagonal direction.

Q4

16. (Once Amended) The integrated circuit as set forth in claim 13, wherein the direction different than the preferred direction comprises a direction complementary to the preferred direction.

Please add new claim 17 as follows:

17. (New) An integrated circuit comprising:

at least one metal layer comprising a plurality of sections, each section comprising at least one thousand conductors situated in a contiguous area to interconnect points on the integrated circuit, wherein a preferred direction, within a section, defines a direction,

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relative to the boundaries of the integrated circuit, for at least fifty percent of conductors in the section;

a first section comprising a Manhattan wiring direction for the conductors deposed in the first section, the first section further comprising at least one conductor deposed in a diagonal direction coupled to a conductor deposed in the Manhattan wiring direction; and

a second section comprising a preferred diagonal wiring direction for the conductors deposed in the second section, such that the diagonal wiring preferred direction is a direction different from the first preferred direction.